

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10-11, 14, 18-20, and 22-26 are currently amended. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments contained herein are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed and do not contain new matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-12, 14-20, and 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Uchida (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,258 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 1, 14, and 25, as currently amended, each recite that detecting the first user mark selects the watermark image corresponding to the first user mark and that watermarked material that comprises the printed material and the selected watermark image does not include the first user mark. This means that the first user mark separate from watermark image and designates the watermark image for selection during scanning. Uchida does not include this.

Uchida indicates that a sequence of characters, numerals, or the like, obtained by reading characters and numerals which are actually written in the document and processed by OCR (optical character recognition) techniques using the scanner 201, are used as watermark information (column 4, lines 57-67). That is, the characters and numerals are used as the watermarked data, which is different from each of claims 1, 14, and 25. Therefore, Uchida does not include each and every recitation of each of claims 1, 14, and 25, so claims 1, 14, and 25 are allowable.

Claims 10, 20, and 23, as currently amended, each recite that detecting the first user mark selects the thumbnail image corresponding to the first user mark and thus the watermark corresponding to that thumbnail image and that watermarked material that comprises the printed material and the image of the selected thumbnail image does not include the first user mark.

There is no indication in Uchida that detecting a first user mark selects a thumbnail image corresponding to the first user mark and thus the watermark corresponding to that thumbnail image. In fact, there is no indication in Uchida of a first user mark corresponding to a thumbnail image that corresponds to a watermark. Moreover, as indicated above in conjunction with claims 1, 14, and 25, characters and numerals actually written in a document and processed by OCR (optical character recognition) techniques are used as the watermarked data in Uchida, which is

different from each of claims 10, 20, and 23. Therefore, Uchida does not include each and every recitation of each of claims 10, 20, and 23, so claims 10, 20, and 23 are allowable.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 11-12 depend from claim 10 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10. Claims 15-19 depend from claim 14 and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14. Claim 22 depends from claim 20 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 20. Claim 24 depends from claim 23 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 23.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13, 21, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,258 B1) in view of Shaffer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,579). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 10, 20, and 25, as currently amended, are each patentably distinct from Uchida. Moreover, Uchida in combination with Shaffer et al. fails to overcome the deficiencies of Uchida with respect to each of claims 10, 20, and 25, so each of claims 10, 20, and 25 is allowable over Uchida in view of Shaffer et al. Claim 13 depends from claim 10 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 10. Claim 21 depends from claim 20 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 20. Claim 26 depends from claim 25 and is thus allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 25.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any further fees deemed necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2208.

Respectfully submitted,

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